

Application/Control Number: 09/868,426

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Art Unit: 2611

CLMPTO

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1. (AMENDED) A method for operating a video processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic message remotely, said electronic message comprising information relating to time and channel data of a selected event;
processing said electronic message in said video processing apparatus to determine said time and channel of the selected event; and
forwarding another electronic message if there is a conflict between said time and channel data and a preexisting timer event.

2. (AMENDED) A method for operating a video processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message directly from a user in email format including sender, subject and control information;
processing, in said video processing apparatus, said message to determine said control information; and
operating said video processing apparatus in response to said control information.

3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of evaluating said password for user verification and wherein said step of operating comprises turning on said video processing apparatus at the desired time and selecting a program in response to said time and channel data.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said electronic message comprises one of an electronic mail message and an electronic instant message.

5. The method of Claim 2 wherein said control information further comprises a recording command and said step of operating comprises controlling a video recording device, interconnected thereto, to record a program associated with said time and channel data.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein said step of controlling comprises programming an event timer, associated with said video recording device, using said time and channel data.

7. The method of Claim 6 further comprising forwarding a message indicating the existence of a conflict exists between said time and channel data and a preexisting timer event.

8. The method of Claim 2 wherein said control information comprises program data.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising passing said program data to the electronic program guide to determine the time and channel information associated with said program data, said program data corresponding to a program listed in said electronic program guide.